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August 24, 1979

Dear Senator Riegle:

Thank you for your inquiry of August 2 on behalf of
concerning the fate of Mr. Raoul
Wallenberg.

According to Department of State records, Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish mission in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II, and disappeared in January of 1945 following the arrival of Soviet troops in Budapest. In response to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government, the Soviet Government in February 1957 stated that Mr. Wallenberg had died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947. Despite the fact that the Swedish Government has officially raised the issue of Mr. Wallenberg's fate on a number of subsequent occasions, citing the fact that several persons claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviet Government has provided no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's mother, Mrs. Frederick von Bardel, has continued to pursue the question of the fate of her son with the Swedish Government and the Swedish Red Cross. Since the Swedish Government and Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe they are in the best position to make inquiries to the Soviet authorities in the event that further representation would be believed helpful.

Sincerely,

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Nelson C. Ledsky
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

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The Honorable

Donald W. Riegle, Jr.,

1450 Holladay Building

477 Michigan Avenue,

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